

UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 8, 2011

7:00 p.m.

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on February 8, 2011 in the Board Chambers in the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Steven Apicella, Rick Carroll, Lloyd Chittum, and Bob Gibbons. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, Mike Smith, Deidre Jett and Cheryl Giles were present for the Utilities Department.

1. Public Presentations – Paul Waldowski provided a presentation detailing his concern about having the county maintain the water and sewer lines for the Stafford Meadows subdivision.

The following residents of the Stafford Meadows subdivision, Jeff and Lisa Barnes, Michelle Atkins, Tonya Berryman and Tonya Braxton, commented they would like to receive assistance from Utilities with maintaining the water and sewer lines in their subdivision. Lisa Barnes submitted a petition of 107 signatures from Stafford Meadows residents requesting the county take over the maintenance system of the water and sewer lines.

Following the public presentations, Mr. Gibbons asked staff if the system's infrastructure had been recently assessed. Mr. Critzer responded that staff had met with the management company a year ago. The existing water meters for each resident have been assessed but the water and sewer mains have not been assessed. Mr. Chittum commented there may be legality issues involved and suggested staff research the issue further.

Mr. Apicella recommended the item be added to Unfinished Business for further discussion.

2. Approval of Minutes – Minutes for the January 11, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

3. Commission Members Comments – Mr. Gibbons reported that he and Mr. Apicella are members of the BZA and were informed that if you are a member of the BZA, you cannot be a member of another commission. They are currently awaiting the County Attorney's findings and will report their decision to the Commission once notified.

4. Director's Report – Harry Critzer reported the following items:

- Introduction of the new Utilities Financial Analyst, Deidre Jett.
- Fairfax County has two localities that have a pump and haul program. Their system has a gravity sewer system, but all the wastewater flows to a centralized tank. Their county staff periodically pumps the tank. The customer pays per 1,000 gallons based on use per resident in the home and pays the same rate as regular water and sewer customers. Their program existed prior to Stafford's pump and haul program.

Mr. Gibbons inquired about funding for the Camp Barrett pumping station. Mr. Critzer responded staff met with Quantico on January 28th and was informed that funding is available for replacement of the pump station. A letter will be submitted to the Base Commander regarding the funding for the pump station.

5. **Stafford Meadows** – Discussion ensued and Mr. Chittum made a motion that staff research and provide a report of the background history, options and recommendations regarding the Stafford Meadows issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gibbons and passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Gibbons requested that an inventory of the system's infrastructure be provided in the report. Mr. Carroll requested an estimated cost to Utilities and to the owners also be provided in the report.

6. **Pump and Haul Update** – Mr. Allen commented there was no new business to report because staff does not have answers to the Commission's legal questions.

7. **Proposed FY2012-2017 CIP** – Mr. Critzer reported that some of the projects were moved to years where there were fewer projects and some of the two-year projects have been changed to three-year projects to help spread out the cost. As a result of those changes, only \$61M bonds will need to be sold. Based upon the original CIP submittal to the Board that equates to a savings of \$68M in bonds over 30 years. Staff reviewed funding bonds over 20 years rather than 30 years, but does not recommend it because of the higher debt service required.

Mr. Gibbons inquired about the bid date and projected cost for the Rocky Pen Run Reservoir project. Mr. Allen responded the projected bid date is the summer of 2011. The cost estimate for the project is \$28M for the treatment facility and \$36M for the dam, reservoir and pumping station.

Mr. Carroll commended staff for significantly reducing the costs to the original CIP. Mr. Gibbons recommended that the BOS be informed of how well staff reduced the costs to the original CIP. Mr. Apicella responded that he would send an e-mail informing the Board of staff's accomplishment.

Mr. Apicella asked what would be the impact on the rate increase for the next several years since the revisions to the CIP. Mr. Critzer responded that the rate model indicates for 2014 a 6% increase, and 5.5%, 5%, 4.5%, 2.5%, 2.5% and 2% for subsequent years. Once past the Rocky Pen Run bonds, the rate increases should level out.

Mr. Apicella asked staff to provide figures on where the utility system needs to be to reach equilibrium (the number of customers needed for the system to be healthy and largely self-sustaining). Mr. Critzer responded the availability fees and pro rata fees are set based upon the number of EDUs that can be served and the cost of the water and sewer infrastructure needed to provide that service. Mr. Critzer stated that staff would do additional research and provide more information at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Apicella,
Acting Recording Secretary